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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$20,000 TO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL ENTERPRISES**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development presented the Community Association of Regional Enterprises (C.A.R.E.) with a \$20,000 mock check on Wednesday, August 10, 2005 at the C.A.R.E. office in Clinton, Missouri. The funds will be used to provide seed money for a small business development revolving loan fund for the seven-county area served by C.A.R.E.

“It is important that we meet the infrastructure needs of our communities throughout Missouri,” said Senator Kit Bond. “I thank USDA for their partnership, and their commitment to the betterment of our communities.”



Congressman Ike Skelton said "Small business development is essential to job creation and economic growth nationwide, but has an enormous impact on the economic health of rural communities. This USDA Rural Development grant will jumpstart C.A.R.E.'s new revolving loan fund, which will eventually provide start-up and existing businesses with greater access to capital, as well as training and mentoring opportunities."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, said, "USDA Rural Development is pleased to provide funding for this worthwhile project. The investment should reap many rewards for the small businesses in the area."

Branum added, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Ike Skelton for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project."

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program is specifically designated to help public bodies and not-for-profit entities promote sustainable economic development in rural communities.

For more information about Rural Business Enterprise Grants or any other Rural Development loan or grant program, you may contact Lois East, Rural Development Manager, by calling 660/885-5567 ext 4 or by visiting the USDA Rural Development Web Site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>.

**"Committed to the future of rural communities."**

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